

Remarks

The examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated March 22, 2004. The examiner is also thanked for the indication that claims 25 and 26 were allowed, and that claims 1-24 and claim 27 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the rejection and objections set forth in the Official Action. This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive to the Official Action.

In the Official Action, the examiner objected to claims 1, 19, and 24 because of informalities. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-18, 20-23, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

With regard to the informalities in claims 1, 19, and 24, the informalities have been corrected as suggested by the examiner.

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraph rejections of claims 1-12, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly indicate that the link 116 has a first end 122 that is pivotally connected to the fastener 108, and a second end 118 that is pivotally connected to the weight 70, as best shown in Figure 1 and Figures 2-7. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to describe -- a link having a first end pivotally attached to said fastener and said link having a second end pivotally attached to said weight;--. It is submitted that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Since claims 2-12 are dependent on claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance.

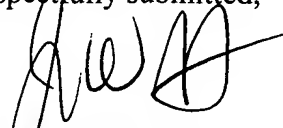
With regard to independent claim 13, claim 13 has been amended to indicate that the first and second angular orientations referred to in lines 7 and 8 of claim 13 are the same (“said”) first and second orientations referred to in lines 17 and 19 of claim 13. It is submitted that independent claim 13 is now in condition for allowance. Since claims 14-18 are dependent on independent claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-18 are now in condition for allowance.

With regard to independent claim 20, lines 3 and 4 of claim 20 indicate that the weight is pivotally connected to the exterior of the container at a first point on the weight, and lines 6 and 7 of claim 20 indicate that the link is pivotally connected to a second point on the weight. Claim 20 has been amended to more clearly indicate that the weight pivots at the first pivotal attachment point with the container and at the second pivotal attachment point with the link. It is submitted that independent claim 20 is now in condition for allowance. Since claims 21-23 are dependent on claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that claims 20-23 are in condition for allowance.

With regard to claim 27, the next-to-the-last line and the last line have been amended to refer to the --securing-- and --releasing-- positions rather than the “secured” and “released” positions. Antecedent basis for --securing-- and --releasing-- is found in lines 4 and 5 of claim 27. It is submitted that claim 27 is in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments and comments resolve all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. It is believed that no fee is due for this submission. Should that determination be incorrect, then please debit Account No. 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JWB', is written over the printed name of Joseph W. Berenato, III.

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